



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Corps continues assisting Idaho flood-fight planners

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – The Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues assisting Idaho flood planners throughout the Snake River Basin.

The Corps sent an emergency management team to Blaine, Idaho on April 22 to prepare for possible flood-fighting efforts on the Big Wood and Little Wood rivers there. Corps staff also is helping emergency planners in Lincoln and Gooding counties, Idaho, and they addressed flood concern issues with the Mayor of Eagle and the city council during a public meeting on April 25.

“We are providing technical assistance to help counties do their contingency planning so that in the event of flooding they’ll have some options on the table available for execution,” said Jeff Stidham, a District emergency operations specialist.

The Corps’ four-member team in Blaine is in close coordination with county officials and county commissioners, Stidham said and they’ve had “a calming effect on the area” by focusing the community on the actions they need to take next to deal with the problems confronting them.

Record snow packs combined with recent precipitation have resulted in high flows and minor flooding along rivers throughout southern Idaho and southeastern Oregon. With the average snow pack remaining well above average across the District, Corps officials advise the current flows could continue for several weeks, depending on weather patterns.

“We don’t see where there is a need to be concerned in the near future since the rivers are below bankfull,” Stidham said. “But we are concerned about future run-off, and we’ll continue closely coordinating and supporting the county and cities in planning their response measures.”

When there is an imminent threat of flooding or when flooding has already occurred, the Corps of Engineers has authority to provide state or local governments with technical assistance, supplies and materials, equipment, or contracts for emergency construction work. The Corps has stockpiled 25,000 sandbags at Lucky Peak Dam and have 50,000 more in storage at McNary Dam.

“The bottom line is we want to prevent loss of life and limit any property damage, due to flooding, so we are prepared to step up our activities if the local communities become overwhelmed. Meanwhile, the Corps will continue to carefully watch the evolving situation and respond, when requested, with whatever assistance is authorized, appropriate and available,” Stidham said.

Individuals needing flood fight assistance should contact their local emergency management officials. State and local agencies needing assistance from the Corps should contact the Walla Walla District Emergency Management Office at (509) 527-7146.

District emergency managers recommend that people living in low-lying or flood-prone areas stay tuned to information and advisories provided by the National Weather Service or their local emergency service agencies.

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